



There are an estimated 900 trained SKYWARN storm spotters in the 24 counties in the South Plains region served by the NWS Office in Lubbock. These volunteers come from all walks of life but most are affiliated with their local law enforcement agencies or fire departments. We also have an amateur radio storm spotting team, the South Plains Storm Spotting Team, that covers the majority of our area of responsibility. Most of our spotters attend annual training conducted by the NWS, which is designed to help them safely navigate severe storms and to correctly interpret what they see in the storm clouds. The information they relay to our office during severe weather events is used to complement radar data and other meteorological data being analyzed by our warning forecasters and as such is vital to our office's warning program.

Every year, from about February 15 through April 30, the National Weather Service Lubbock forecast office teaches about 30 spotter training classes. Most classes are taught at local fire departments since the vast majority of our spotters are volunteer firefighters. In some cases, the classes are taught at police departments, community centers, etc. For the latest schedule of classes, see our website at:

www.srh.noaa.gov/lub/safety/spotter.html

At right, Skywarn members, Kendall Stanaland and Bruce Haynie gather storm information through a variety of radio frequencies.

